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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Memorandum

To : CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 9th Street, Room 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Date: September 24, 2001

From :  for
Robert W. Floerke, Regional Manager
Department of Fish and Game - Central Coast Region, Post Office Box 47, Yountville, California 94599

Subject: White Slough CALFED Restoration Project

I am writing on behalf of the Central Coast Region of the California Department of Fish and Game to express support for the Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District's efforts to monitor and restore the White Slough Lagoon. The site is within the lower Napa River watershed, which is strategically important to the overall Bay-Delta restoration effort because it supports important aquatic and wildlife habitat and contains relatively large amounts of undeveloped land.

The proposal calls for monitoring of the Lagoon, development of a pilot restoration project, and a subsequent restoration planning effort based upon the effectiveness of the pilot project. The proposal would also include development of educational facilities on the Lagoon site. These actions are the next steps in fulfilling the White Slough Specific Area Plan's Wetland Enhancement and Public Access Elements. In addition, the project will address critical regional needs such as improving threatened and endangered species habitat and restoring diked historic baylands. Species anticipated to benefit from the project include Delta smelt, Sacramento splittail, Chinook salmon, California clapper rail, salt marsh harvest mouse, soft birds-beak, and Suisun thistle, as well as numerous other aquatic and wildlife species.

Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District is already pursuing a flood control project in the Lagoon which will restore a muted tidal regime. This project will build off of this pre-existing project to help restore the Lagoon at minimal additional cost. This project, combined with other restoration efforts along the lower Napa River, such as the Napa/Sonoma Marsh and the City of American Canyon restoration, will help provide a nearly continuous stretch of high quality habitat for fish and wildlife species along the Napa River.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Fred Botti, Environmental Specialist at (707) 944-5571; or Mr. Carl Wilcox, Habitat Conservation Manager, at (707) 944-5525.